[*Translation*]

REVIVAL OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN BIHAR

281 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) the main difficulties being faced to revive the fruit processing industries set up in Madhubani, Darbhanga and Oeni in Bihar, and

(b) the steps being taken to remove the difficulties so that these industries are revived ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO) (a) and (b) There are only three fruit processing units in these Districts in cooperative sector These units which were set up during 1966-67 never went in production due to a dispute between the contractor and the societies concerned regarding supply of machinery and the matter went into arbitration The arbitration case continued till 1975 with the result societies could not take up commercial production By the time the cases were resolved, the societies lost interest in it On the recommendation of the State Govt the National Cooperative Development Corporation sanctioned rehabilitation assistance of Rs 4 80 lakhs in 1976 for reviving the unit located at Dharbhanga. However the State Govt did not release the assistance to the society for rehabilitation of the same The sanction was subsequently cancelled Further, the NCDC sanctioned rehabilitation assistance of Rs 4 20 lakhs to the unit at Warm (Oeni) and Rs 4 12 lakhs to the unit at Madhubhani in 1982 In these cases also the State Govt did not take any action for the rehabilitation and therefore the sanctions were cancelled Hence, the main difficulty being faced to revive these units was the lack of interest shown by the concerned societies and the State Government

NCDC has since not received any proposal from the State Govt. of Bihar for rehabilitation of these units and Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not propose to take over these units.

REVIVAL OF ASHOK PAPER MILLS LTD AND THAKUR PAPER MILLS

282 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the steps being taken by Government to revive Ashok Paper Mills Ltd at Rameshwar Nagar in Darbhanga district of Bihar

(b) the hurdles being faced in the process of revival of Rameshwar Nagar unit of Ashok Paper Mills Ltd and by what time and how these hurdles are proposed to be removed and

(c) the time by which Thakur Paper Mills in Samastipur District is likely to be revived ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF P J KURIEN) (a) and (b) Ashok Paper Mills Ltd (APM) has two units—one at Jorighopa in Assam and the other at Rameshwar Nagar in Bihar The Assam unit has been lying closed since March, 1983 and the Bihar unit since Sept, 1982 Ashok Paper Mills Ltd (APM) had made an application to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985 During the proceedings in the BIFR, the State Governments of Bihar and Assam have agreed to nationalise the two units, located in their respective States, with a view to reviving the same The State Government of Assam has nationalised the Assam unit of APM As regards the Rameshwar Nagar unit of APM similar action has to be taken by Government of Bihar

Government of Bihar had sent a draft ordinance for nationalising the Rameshwar Nagar unit of APM for receiving President's instructions thereon, before promulgating the ordinance Certain observations/ suggestions on behalf of the Government of India have been conveyed to Government of Bihar for their comments, which are awaited Further steps leading to the re-opening of the unit are to be taken by the State Government of Bihar